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NEW FARM BUILDING PLANS

Transcribed talk by Arthur W. Turner, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Recorded September 11, 1945. Time: 5 minutes without announcer's parts.

ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

OPENING

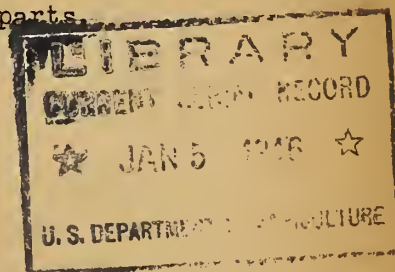
ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

There's a lot of postwar interest in improving farm buildings of every type. Improved farm buildings will be big factors in better farm living. They'll help cut down production costs. They'll preserve farm products in better condition. Interest in farm building isn't confined to the United States. Just recently the Ministries of Agriculture in Scotland and England sent a mission to this country to study American research work on farm buildings and farm equipment at the Department of Agriculture Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland, and at many of the State Colleges of Agriculture and Experiment Stations throughout the country. By transcription, let's hear from a Beltsville scientist who is in close touch with this situation. He's Arthur W. Turner, Assistant Chief of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering...who's in charge of agricultural engineering research. How about farm buildings, now that the war's over, Mr. Turner?

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER (LIVE):

I'm sure all farmers planning new buildings will want to look over those plan books, Mr. Turner...the very next time they stop in the county agent's office. Friends, the scientist who gave us this report on new farm building plans is Mr. Arthur W. Turner, in charge of agricultural engineering research for the United States Department of Agriculture.



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TRANSCRIPTION:

TURNER:

The end of the war has brought a reconversion problem for farmers planning building improvements.

Dealers in materials have a reconversion problem also...especially those whose sheds are almost bare of lumber...and those whose stocks of paint, plumbing supplies, heating equipment and other common building materials are very low. It will be some time before either the standard prewar building materials and equipment, or the new things developed during the war years, will be available in quantity.

"Reconversion" also faces research and extension workers in the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges. Many of the men normally employed on farm building research and extension have been in the armed forces. Those left have had to work on special wartime problems.

We need to find out much more than we already know about the requirements of livestock housing...and the keeping requirements of grain and other field and orchard products. This is important research work that must be done. But farmers can't wait for it to be completed to start making their first postwar building improvements. To bridge the gap, agricultural engineers in the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges are assembling existing plans and selecting the best ones. They're also getting together the best information on construction materials already in use and new materials developed during the war.

In the 12 Northeastern States, these specialists with representatives from industry have just held a meeting to revise the farm building plan book for that region. Similar meetings will be held by the agricultural engineers and home economists of the Southern and Western States. The directors of the Agricultural Experiment Stations in the North Central States have a committee working on bulletins on the kinds of farm buildings needed in the Middle West...and another committee to revise the Midwest Farm Building Plan Service.

These committees should have their work done in the next few months. Then the new plan books will immediately be put into the offices of county agricultural agents for farmers to use...or the county agent can tell you where to get them. Many Vocational Agricultural teachers will have the plan catalogue also.

While these new building plans are in the making and building materials are still scarce is a good time for farm people to plan small improvements for the near future. What are some of the things that might be done right away?

Well, the more substantial program of farm building improvement might start with making a study of the layout of the farmstead. You can't very well move houses and barns to improve the layout, but you can shift roads, fences, and gates ...and maybe some of the small buildings. Little changes of this nature often save a lot of time in doing the chores. A hard-surfaced walk or paved barnyard may mean a lot...you might say a dry lot...to both the farm family and the livestock.

Perhaps the house needs running water...a kitchen sink or a bathroom. Maybe the cheapest way is just to install the fixtures in whatever space happens to be empty. But that's not the way to get a convenient and efficient house. The best way is to measure up the house and get an accurate plan down on paper. In planning house changes, many people find it helpful to represent various pieces of furniture and equipment with cardboard cutouts. Then they move these cutouts around on the plan to find the best permanent arrangement. Furniture cutouts are also very useful if you're starting from scratch and studying the plan for a new house or farm building.

Maybe you're thinking about a better heating system for your house. Then you'll want to think of insulation to save heat.

If your building project is a barn, how are you going to handle your hay? Will it be put in the mow loose...or will it be baled or chopped? Do you plan to use the new mow-curing system? If you are going to use baled or chopped hay, the mow need be only half as big as if long hay is used. You can reduce fire risk by storing hay in a separate building instead of in a mow overhead.

If you're thinking about a dairy barn, what about the width and length of the stalls? Many good cows have been ruined in stalls that are too narrow. Platforms of the wrong length have caused a lot of unnecessary work in cleaning dirty cows.

If you're making building plans, you can get some excellent pointers from the farm building plan books already available in many county agricultural agents' offices. There are plans in these books for farm houses, barns, and storage buildings. Also, plans for many kinds of farm equipment like feed racks, gates, feed troughs, and cattle guards. Remember, too, that you can get plans for farm buildings by writing to your State College of Agriculture.

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